

SPOKE

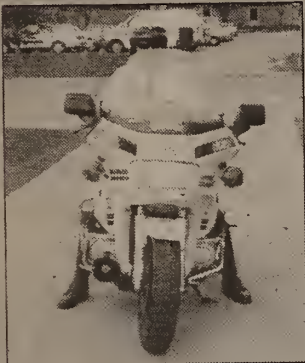
Conestoga College, Kitchener

30th Year — No. 18

May 19, 1998

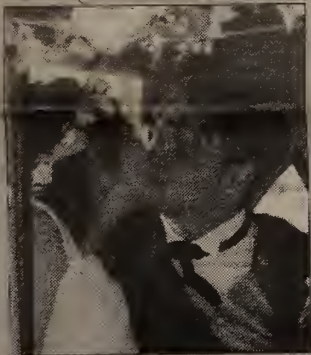
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Smashing barriers at technical contest

Over 700 students take part in Skills Canada competition

By Amanda Fickling

Smashing barriers was the theme at the Ontario Technological Skills Competition held at Conestoga College from May 5 and 6, where over 700 students from across Ontario took part.

The theme was chosen as an attempt to get rid of the negative stereotyping usually associated with trades, said Manon Bouchard, program co-ordinator for Skills Canada.

The students, who came from as far away as Thunder Bay to Ottawa and down to Windsor, were placed into four different categories of competition depending on their ages, she said. The first group of students was the elementary level between Grades 4 and 6. These students had a background of technology which was implemented into their curriculum, said Bouchard.

The second group was junior high, Grade 7 and 8. The third bunch consisted of high school students who were streamed into the technological aspect of high school rather than academics, said Bouchard.

Finally, the fourth group was college or apprentice students who are interested in furthering their careers in the field they are studying.

Altogether there were 40 differ-



Lineups were gigantic for registration at the Skills Canada Ontario competition, held at Doon May 5 and 6. (For additional photo from the registration day, see page 6) (Photo by Casey Johnson)

ent school districts including, 14 college, five Ministry of Education and Training districts and two private institutes, who had students entered in the competition, said Bouchard.

Conestoga College was host to the competition last year, and will be host next year as well, she said. Conestoga College has a three-year contract with Skills Canada. The college will host the provin-

cial and the national level of competitions.

When asked what the purpose of Skills Canada was, Bouchard responded, Skills Canada promotes trades and technology to teens as an option for their futures.

The organization supports technology programs in schools to keep technology alive. The competition supports students and

encourages them to continue in the technological field. Skills Canada also helps keep kids in school, said Bouchard.

The competition, which began in 1989, held the awards ceremonies at the Kitchener Memorial Auditorium May 6. Minister of Education Training Dave Johnson was present for the event. Awards with values of \$500 and less were presented to students.

Skills judge says student competition builds opportunities

By Jason Gennings

Ten students from all over Ontario took over the Conestoga College photography department for the provincial level of the Skills Canada competition, May 5-6.

Bob Bauer, a retired photography teacher from Northern Secondary School in Toronto, chaired the photography competition for the third time this year.

Bauer and committee member Kathleen Finlayson wrote the photography page of the Skills Canada web site.

According to the site, the purpose of the challenge is to evaluate each competitor's theoretical knowledge of photography, their practical skills and to recognize outstanding students for excellence in creativity.

This part of the skills competition is to help prepare students for the realities of the working world.

The Skills site goes on to say students gain exposure and net-

working opportunities to open the doors to career prospects.

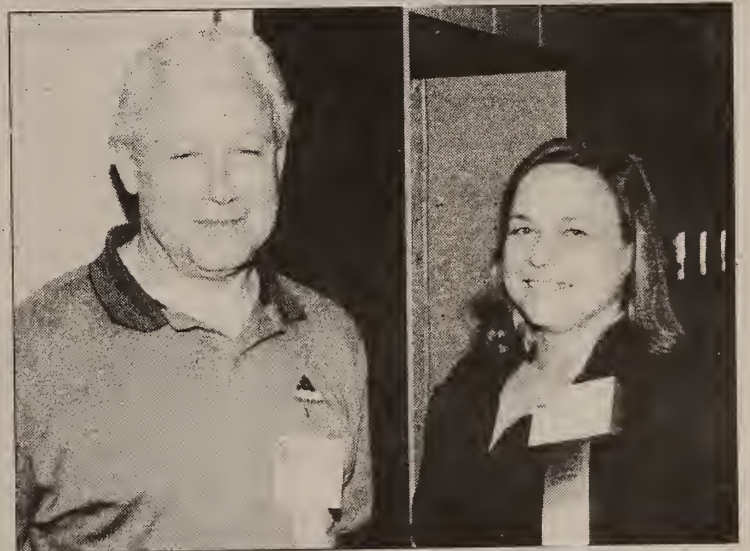
Students were evaluated on demonstration prints they brought in, a written test, contact sheets and negatives, but half of their marks came from one print of the two themes for the day's shooting. "We turn them loose at 7:30 a.m.," said Finlayson. Their themes were architecture and patterns.

Some of the images captured were the slope of the recreation centre in the morning fog and dew on a delicate spider web.

Jody Pushcar, a Grade 12 student from Bayridge high school in Kingston, is in her third photography course since last year. She said she came to the competition at Conestoga to have fun.

"I went to another one. It wasn't well organized," said Pushcar. "It was very competitive. This one is much better."

OAC student Myles Anderson of Napanee District secondary school has been in photography for four



Bob Bauer and Kathleen Finlayson chaired the photography part of the the Skills Canada Ontario competition held May 5 and 6. (Photo by Anita Santarossa)

years. He said he the interest started with a class in school, but cameras have always been in the house.

"The competition encourages me to use my skills and explore skills I've never considered using before," said Anderson.

Judging at the competition for the second time was Hans Westerblom, a photography professor at Ryerson Polytechnic University, with 33 years experience.

"The competition is an interesting idea to raise skill levels and to raise quality," said Westerblom.

The second judge was Prof. Henry Visscher who teaches photography at Sheridan College. In his third year of judging Visscher said the quality of the work is generally high.

"I'm interested to see photos from another perspective," said Visscher. "It's nice to see the levels of photography."

Both judges said skills gained in competitions like Skills Canada, help the students build the portfolios needed to get into college programs.

Walking 'n' rolling for mental health

By Michael Hilborn

The walk for mental health, which was held May 3, was a rolling success for the people involved, even if the attendance was less than expected.

The event, involving numerous members of the K-W business community and various charities, was held at the Doon campus of Conestoga College to raise both funds and public awareness in order to aid the people of this community who are forced to deal with the realities of life with mental illness. It consisted of a walk through some of the more picturesque areas of the region, including the Doon Pioneer Village.

There were two routes: a five-kilometre course for the sedentary types and a more challenging nine-kilometre marathon, which included a steep uphill section, for the adventurous crowd. Since walkers and in-line skaters were invited to participate, there were staggered starting times to avoid traffic problems and any potential for pedestrian road rage.

Glenna Henderson, one of the representatives of the Waterloo regional branch of the Canadian Mental Health Association, said she was pleased with the turnout in general but said she was also somewhat disappointed with the lack of support from the student population.

"I would have liked to have seen more of the college students come out," she said. "We try to promote it (the event) for student activities and, hopefully, people will hear about it and come out next year. We'll plan for the future."

Melissa McShane is a member of the Kitchener YWCA and a representative for the Kitchener shelter for battered women, which was one of the beneficiaries of this fund-raising event.

She too said she felt that more people should be donating their time and money to causes such as this. She said she had had to deal with the trauma of spousal abuse and she was only too glad to help others to raise awareness

of the problem and try to find solutions.

Dave Edwards, of the K-W Synchronized Swimming Club, was there with his swimming team who were ready to walk and roll for what he said was a worthy cause. Edwards said that 15 per cent of the funds raised went back to the corporate sponsors.

Another corporate sponsor was Laser Quest, a Kitchener-based company that offers a high-tech version of paintball for the entertainment of people who have an irresistible urge to shoot somebody.

The company, which is located at the corner of Charles and Water streets, consists of a 6,000 square foot maze, complete with light effects and music and can accommodate up to 28 people at a time.

Nancy McIver, who is one of the owners, said the object of the game is to shoot one's opponent with a laser and attempt to illuminate one of a number of special targets worn on the body.

The event was hosted by KOOL 105, a Kitchener FM radio station which was broadcasting live from the location. Angie Hill is a D.J. for the station and acted as a sort of master of ceremonies. Hill is a graduate of Conestoga's journalism program and she said she had some interesting memories of her time here.

"I'll be honest with you," she said. "I really sucked at print (journalism). That wasn't my thing. I should never have been there."

Hill completed her work term at the Durham Citizen and then worked at a number of community newspapers before making the jump to broadcasting. She has been working at KOOL 105 for three years.

After the walk, the participants were treated to complimentary drinks and hot dogs and then were entertained by Cana Bravo, a local Latin band who had the people up and dancing to their bouncy salsa beat.

The event was supervised by the Waterloo regional police and first aid stations were provided by the regional fire service.



A group of in-line skaters leads the pack in the Walk and Roll fundraiser for mental health. The event was held May 3 at the Doon campus of Conestoga College. (Photo by Michael Hilborn)



Dave Edwards of the Kitchener Waterloo Synchronized Swimming club leads his group of volunteers with his golden retriever in the Walk and Roll for mental health at Doon on May 3. (Photo by Michael Hilborn)

Wilfrid Laurier holds entrepreneur training conference

By Anita Santarossa

For those of you who like to live life on the edge and are interested in entrepreneurship the Enterprise Edge is holding their first national training conference.

The first national conference of Best Practices in Youth Entrepreneurship Training will be held at the University of Wilfrid Laurier from May 27 to 30, 1998.

If you are a teacher or trainer of youth enterprise programs, a high school, college or univer-

sity educator, a business leader or policy and decision maker, be sure to check out this four-day conference.

Highlights of the four-day event will include a keynote speaker from Angus Reid, workshops on the six best practice models, the Royal Bank dinner, Theatre on the Edge, the Enterprise Edge Showcase and over 30 concurrent roundtable sessions.

For more information contact conference co-ordinator Susan Martin at (519)896-4040 or check out the website at www.sentex.net/enterprise.edge.

Doon business competition creates new job opportunities

By Anita Santarossa

Two teams of the computer programmer analyst program (CP/A program) at Conestoga College won the CP/A Projects competition for their innovative application software programs.

The projects were judged by three people outside the college who specialize in application software development, said CP/A instructor John Scott.

Projects are evaluated according to how well they run, how well they manage information and how user friendly they are to the average lay person, said Scott.

Representatives of different companies throughout the region were invited to the public presentation day which was held in the Blue

Room on campus. The judging took place on May 4, and the public presentation ran on May 6.

Christopher Frey, Arthur Monticino and Sesheeka Selcaratnam won for their project sponsored by the Canadian Information Process Society. Their application program manages Internet information dealing with recording artists and CD's that can be created directly on the Internet.

The second team, Robert Kulik, Margo Palmer and Andrew Patterson, won for the development of a property management application program.

Scott said that the competition is a great opportunity for students to get practical experience.

"Students spend the first two years studying the theory behind

computer application development, so this last term provides an excellent simulation of real life."

He also mentioned that the project competition helps promote the program and its students, as well as stimulate the interest of local businesses to hire graduating students.

"The program benefits students as well as local businesses, so it is a win-win situation," said Scott.

The audio-visual department currently uses a program that was originally created by Conestoga students several years ago. Another group of students this term tried to improve the application by changing it to a windows interface.

The nursing program also uses an information management software application created five years ago by CP/A students.

Work safety promoted at seminar

By Ned Bekavac

To increase awareness of industrial safety, the Woodworkers Accident Prevention Association and Conestoga College's Woodworking Centre of Ontario co-sponsored a one-day series of workshops at the college May 8.

Because of financial and human costs associated with unsafe practices and the lack of proper training, the promotion of industrial safety is increasing these days.

Held at the woodworking centre in Conestoga's Doon campus, the workshop featured four sessions presented by the Industrial Accident Prevention Association and the Conestoga College woodworking faculty. The workshops were aimed at bringing workers up-to-date with current safety practices and was the second of its kind in 1998.

The day was divided into four different safety-related topics; ergonomics and its effect on diminishing workplace accidents, enhancement of forklift safety training to protect pedestrians as well as operators, developing and improving joint health and safety committees in the workplace, and hands-on safety tours and demonstrations which highlight innovative practices at the Woodworking Centre of Ontario.

The workshop began with a keynote address by Ron Lovelock, director of prevention services with the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board. Lovelock discussed the provincial government's plans to improve workplace safety and planned to focus especially on the woodworking industry.

The Woodworkers Accident Prevention Association, meets quarterly and focuses on safety in the woodworking area. The group distributes a newsletter to its members two to three times a year.

Mary Young, a co-ordinator with the association, says her group plays an important role in workplace safety.

"We provide people with an update on health and safety and legislation. Updates need to be at a current level," Young said.

Those attending the workshops work in member firms that have registered with the association. Approximately 50 industry representatives took part in the workshops.

Student services staff will remain at current number

By Casey Johnson

For the first time in eight years Conestoga College's student services department will not be downsizing in September, said Jack Fletcher, director of student and recreation services.

Fletcher said he was happy that the current staff would remain. "This is the best staff around," he

"All of them really do give 110 per cent."

Jack Fletcher, director of student and recreation services

said. "All of them really do give 110 per cent."

Fletcher also sees the possible slow expansion of some of the college's programs, including student services.

"I can see it (the expansion) if the college continues to grow and as co-op programs come on board," he said.

Fletcher is positive regarding the future of the student services operation. He said, even though the budget for student services has been cut by more than half over the last eight years, a good service has continued to be more or less

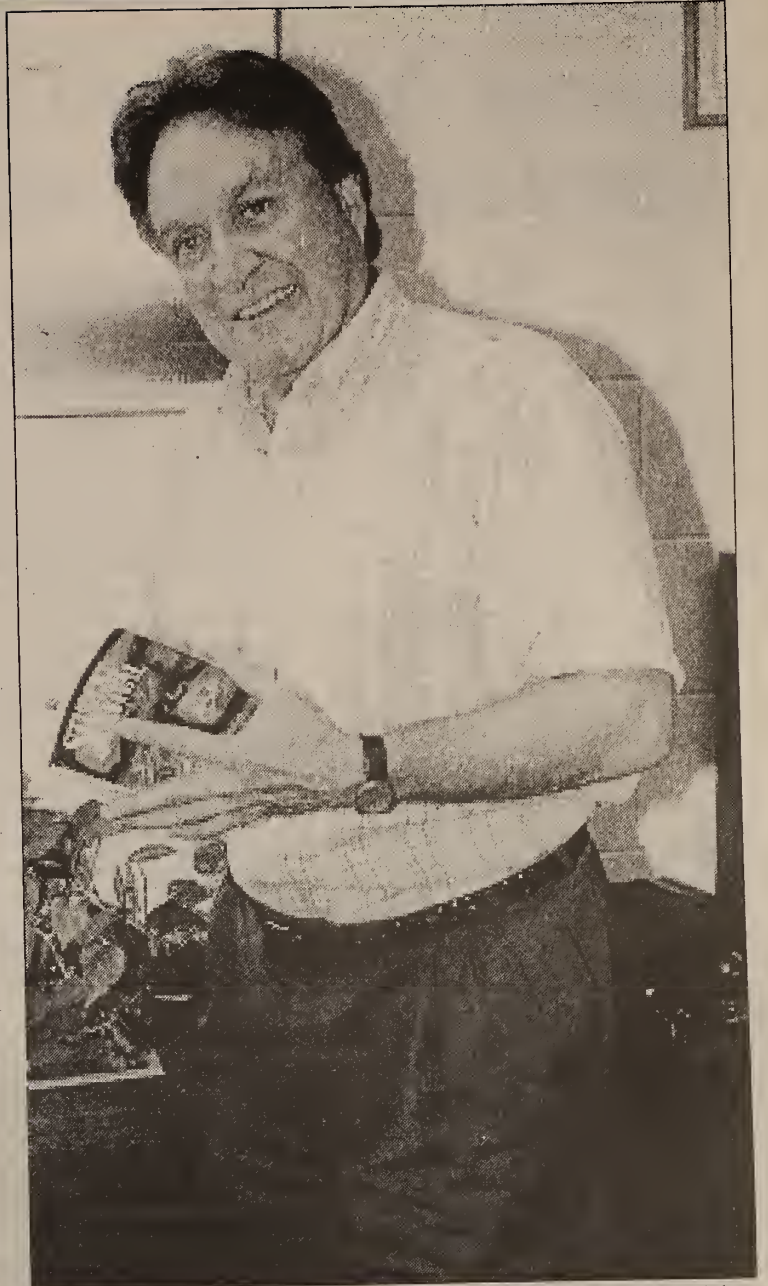
maintained.

Rumors about cut-backs have surfaced at some of Conestoga's satellite campuses as well.

As far as the Guelph campus is concerned, Fletcher said there would indeed be a student service counsellor back there for September, contrary to hearsay suggesting otherwise.

It's expected that there will be a decline in the services available to students over the summer months at the satellite campuses, said Fletcher. This is largely due to the decrease in student population and the shorter duration of some of the programs, he said. However, that does not mean that students, from any of Conestoga's campuses, will not be able to utilize services available to them over the summer months. Fletcher said that students could visit the Doon campus if need be where there will be full-time counsellors available to help them. In emergency situations, a counsellor may be able to visit the student on another campus, it would depend on the situation, said Fletcher.

With four full-time and two part-time counsellors available to Conestoga's student population of approximately 5,000, Fletcher said he believes that the college has one of the best student services in the country.



Jack Fletcher says the student services staff won't be downsizing in September. (Photo by Casey Johnson)

Starting your own business takes character

By Anita Santarossa

Part of Skills Canada Competition, seminars for the business-oriented, were held May 5 and 6 at Conestoga College's Doon campus. The seminars focused on everything from resume writing, to successful job interviews, to entrepreneurship.

Chris Maziarz, facilitator for the University of Wilfrid Laurier self-employment benefit program, handed out a questionnaire at the beginning of his seminar on entrepreneurship.

The questionnaire was extracted from the book *Building a Dream*, by University of British Columbia Prof. Douglas Gray.

Maziarz explained that the questionnaire deals with personality characteristics of a successful entrepreneur and it is one criteria used for WLU's business program admissions. However, "If someone scores poorly (on the question-

aire), this doesn't mean they won't be admitted into the program," said Maziarz, "and if they score great it doesn't mean they will be accepted either."

The test is something that complements an individual's marks, extra-curricular activities and business background and is not the only basis of admission, said Maziarz.

The three key characteristics one should have in order to become an entrepreneur, according to Maziarz, is an identifiable opportunity; management skills and money.

Student Banson Hua, 18, of Toronto, Ont., would like to begin his own business.

"I am considering entrepreneurship as a career once I generate enough capital," said Hua.

Canadian statistics have reported that 75 to 80 per cent of small businesses fail within five years of their start date. "They don't neces-

sarily go bankrupt, but most new businesses have a hard time keeping their heads above water."

However, Maziarz said that people considering entrepreneurship should not be discouraged with these statistics. "It takes a motivated and enthusiastic individual to be an entrepreneur and one who is not afraid of failure, though has an extremely strong will to win," said Maziarz.

This stereotypical "take no prisoners" characteristic has created many myths surrounding the idea of what an entrepreneur is, said Maziarz. He listed several common misconceptions of entrepreneurship; entrepreneurs are born, being an entrepreneur is the only way you can be your own boss, and entrepreneurs are gamblers.

Maziarz specifically indicated that entrepreneurs are not gamblers.

"They manage risk and the more

control you have over risk the more successful you will be." He explained that an entrepreneur takes calculated risks and are educated about the risks involved.

"The greater the risk the more successful you will be."

He also explained that an entrepreneur does not necessarily need to have a college or university education.

"There are 30 self-help centres located across Ontario, that give out free information and materials and hold seminars regarding entrepreneurship," said Maziarz. "The centres are government funded and the local centre is located at Kitchener City Hall."

Student Robert Raczkowski, 18, of Toronto, Ont., said he is considering entrepreneurship in his future.

Currently in his final year of high school, Raczkowski said "I am considering entrepreneurship as a back-up career."

Counsellors get heads together at conference

By Amanda Fickling

A one-day conference for leaders of guidance and co-op education was held at Conestoga College Doon campus on May 7.

The conference, entitled *Getting our Heads Together*, was sponsored by the Ontario Guidance Leadership Association, OGLA, and the Ontario School Counsellors Association, OSCA.

"Members and teachers involved with guidance counselling and co-op education from all across the

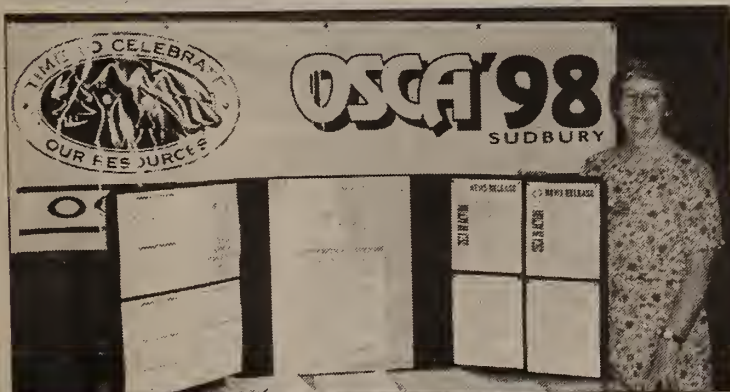
province take part," said Maureen Thompson, executive secretary for OSCA, during an interview.

The conference is held annually, said Thompson. There is a different location for it every year, said Jamie Hember who helped coordinate the day.

The day is organized so people can keep up-to-date on current education development, said Hember. Several workshops were open throughout the day to the participants. They included seminars on the internet, career coun-

selling, pathways to employability and communication 2000-get ready.

OGLA's mandate entails the sharing of curriculum resources, networking, information processing, problem solving and professional development. The association strives to create a supporting relationship between the Ontario Ministry of Education and Training, and Association of Career Centres in Educational Settings. For more information on OSCA find them on the web at www.ouac.on.ca.



Executive secretary Maureen Thompson took part at the guidance counsellor and teacher seminars held at Conestoga College. (Photo by Amanda Fickling)

Crime deterrent plan uses classical music

By Amanda Fickling

As compositions from Vivaldi, Bach, Lute, and Mozart echo through the air, a sensation of peace overcomes your body. No, you are not watching an orchestra, or in the tub unwinding after a hard days work. You are, however, waiting on a hard bench for the next subway to get you one step closer to home.

In Toronto and the Greater Toronto Area, subway stations are playing classical music as part of a crime deterrent program.

Kennedy subway station in Scarborough has a record of being one of the worst stations for violence. The controversy heightened two years ago after frequent incidents of teen swarmings and a fatal stabbing of a 15-year-old in January, 1996.

Kennedy station now has improved lighting, closed circuit television, a community bulletin board for announcements about youth activities and a community mural, which have changed the station's interior.

Toronto will never erase violence completely. Implementing these strategies is proof that these crime-infested areas are drawing the attention that they deserve. I recall my first experience at the Kennedy station. I was in first-year university and travelling to my roommate's house, conveniently located in Scarborough, for the weekend. Before the sliding doors opened to the underground war zone, my roommate gave me some words of wisdom, "Stay close to me." Well, if that wasn't enough to put some fear into the bones of an eighteen-year-old from a town of 28,000 where subway trains still seem like a wave of the future, I don't know what is.

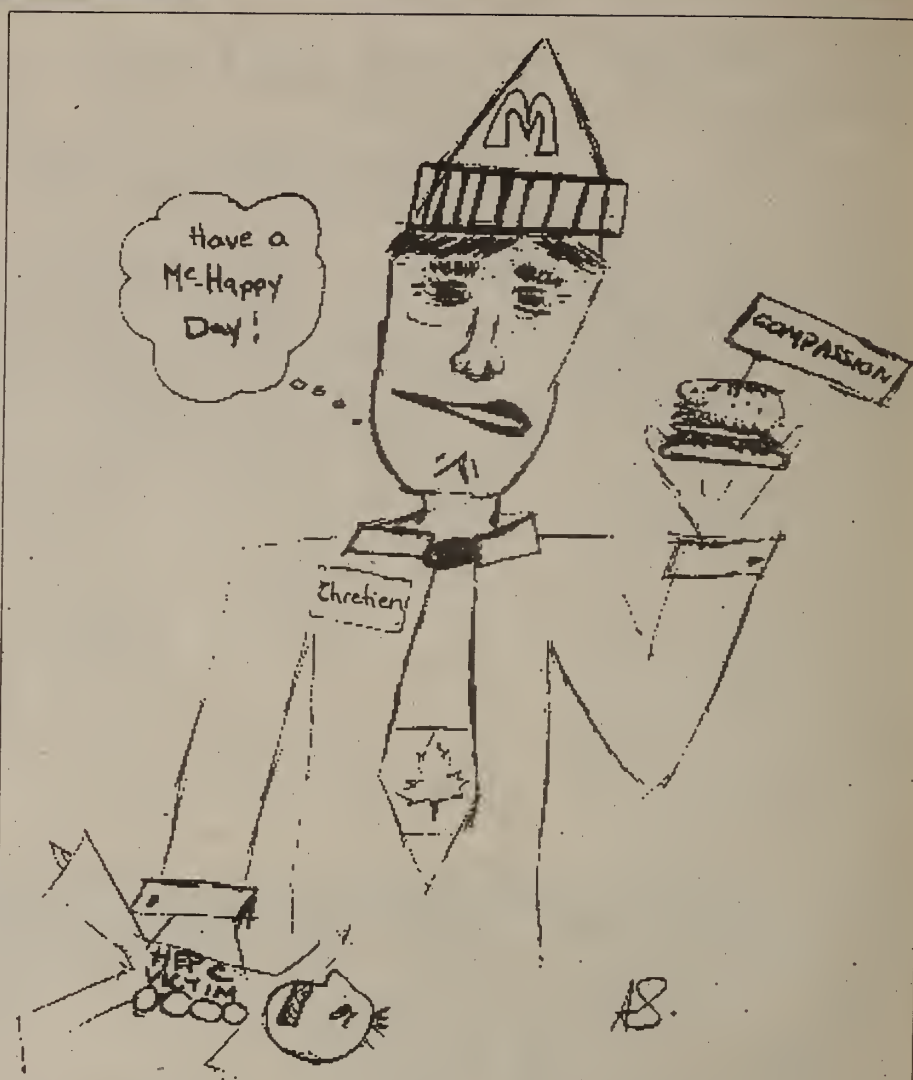
I was still in shock from her words when I stepped onto the platform. To me, Kennedy station resembled the Eaton Centre on

boxing day. And for some sick reason the temperament of the citizens was also similar. People were cutting others off to be closer to the escalators. Commuters were pushing and shoving like a pack of sharks who had just spotted blood in the ocean.

As my roommate uncontrollably got further and further away from me, I spotted my salvation. A tall, tough-looking security guard was walking in the same direction as us, so I positioned myself behind him and walked to my destination with my head down, trying desperately not to make eye contact with anyone.

I have no doubt that something had to be done, especially at Kennedy station. The crime deterrent program began two months ago and is part of a \$2,000 one-year pilot project. The program has youth workers from local YMCAs walking through the station offering advice to teens and handing out pamphlets that list activities for youth. Also roaming the station are transit and Metro police. These efforts seem to be paying off. Toronto Transit Commission officials say crimes at Kennedy dropped to 39 in 1997 from 76 in 1996, reported the Toronto Star.

The success of the program should dictate its further use. Money should be placed in the budget for programs that seek to make society safer. This program safeguards the subway station, and also reaches out to teens. Kids playing basketball are urged to play at the YMCA. Teens who used to use the station as a hang-out are advised to consult the employment centre at the YMCA. Whether it is the classical music, cops or job opportunities that are clearing the Kennedy station, nobody really knows. Either way, I do not believe Toronto can risk the safety of commuters by not continuing with this program.



"I meant to say something else, therefore I wasn't lying."

Stripping of teacher's licence is years too late



Casey Johnson

Sarnia teacher David Wark was finally stripped of his teaching licence May 6, following his conviction, in 1996, of sexually molesting female students over 20 years.

Twenty years. The first question that comes to mind is, how could this have gone on for so long?

According to a May 7 Globe and Mail article, Wark was issued a strong letter of warning in 1991, after complaints he was standing too close to students, massaging their shoulders or touching their buttocks.

Did this not give the principal of the Sarnia elementary school a warning signal? Inappropriate behavior, especially sexually inappropriate behavior, should be a red-light to officials alerting them that the situation will probably grow worse.

Scarborough rapist Paul Bernardo evaded police for years, until his arrest for the murders of Kristen French and Leslie Mahaffey.

Even if a situation is not quite that severe, some people find it difficult believing that

there was ever bad intention. If a crystal clear picture is not painted, one tends to believe that the situation was misinterpreted. If the situation is construed as being innocent, because no real assault had actually taken place, then one may believe that it was interpreted the wrong way.

One of Wark's victims said her mother told her she was probably misinterpreting the situation, and therefore the incidents were never reported. At times, parents can put too much trust in teachers, perhaps believing schools are only hiring responsible instructors. The problem is, an academic institution cannot always be responsible for teachers. Yes, they hire them, but only based on qualifications and information on applications.

In a job that requires close contact with students, one assumes that their intentions are purely honorable. Some teachers do not make a great deal of money. Therefore, the only logical reason for wanting to teach seems to be the love of preparing and educating students for the future. They enjoy observing children growing and learning.

No warning should have been given to Wark, no matter how severe. He should have

been immediately dismissed. It goes without saying that inappropriately touching a student is unacceptable. If an academic institute warns potential teachers about unsuitable behavior before hiring, a warning letter is not necessary. They should be dismissed immediately, without worrying about the teacher yelling illegal dismissal.

Really, it seems only common sense not to touch a student in a manner that could be misconstrued as sexual or that could make the student feel uncomfortable.

Unfortunately, this situation has occurred too many times, in hockey arenas, in churches, in organizations and in classrooms. It is too bad that paranoia has set in. But in reality, it is necessary. An unfortunate few have ruined a very important structure. A structure that enables us to trust the instructors helping us raise our children.

Anyone wishing to make a complaint about a teacher may contact the College of Teachers, a newly established institute dealing with just such issues.

According to Denys Giguere, media relations officer for the institute, any member of the public is able to lodge a complaint.

They are then urged to approach the teacher or principal of the school. Then, if they are not satisfied with the action taken, they can submit their complaint in writing to the College of Teachers. An investigations officer will then be assigned to the case.

All investigative work is kept confidential until a disciplinary hearing is scheduled. The information then becomes a matter of public record.

However, this was not always the case. Ontario's first public disciplinary hearing for a teacher was held April 8. Prior to that, the meetings were kept private.

This September the Waterloo Region school board will implement a police records check for all teachers seeking employment. Until now, teachers were asked to indicate any criminal convictions on their applications, but no follow-up research was done, said Helen Thorman-McLean, superintendent of human resources for the board. She said eventually all employees who are in contact with students, will be made to supply a personal police record check at their own cost. The record will then be checked.

SPOKE

Keeping Conestoga College connected

SPOKE is published and produced weekly by the journalism students of Conestoga College.

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Streeter**Doon students blame government for tuition increase**

By Jeannette Altwegg

In a recent survey conducted at Doon campus, six out of eight students said tuition increases are unfair and the government should find a different way of dealing with this issue.

A May 9 Kitchener-Waterloo Record article stated that Conestoga College was deregulating tuition for some programs even before last week's announcement of tuition deregulation.

"Community colleges," the article stated, "will be able to charge what they please for so-called 'post-diploma' programs."

The article also mentioned some already high-tuition short-term programs at the college that cost upward from \$4,000, almost triple the regular tuition fee.

These programs, according to the Record, are focused on intensive job-training where graduates are able to find jobs upon completion.

Graphic design student Andrew Coutier said he could see the tuition increase as a good thing if it were used to students' advantage.

"If it improves our education, if we can get more computers and if the money is spent on things for the students, then that's a good idea," he said, however, he also

added that he was doubtful this was going to happen.

Nevertheless, Ana Sajfert a print journalism student at Doon said she's worried that education will end up just being for the rich and practically inaccessible for those who don't have the money for education.

"It's not really fair to say to someone who's really intelligent he can't continue school just because his parents were janitors," Sajfert said.

Another point raised in the article was by Conestoga College President John Tibbits who was quoted as saying that, since the

government gave secondary education institutions the freedom to set their own prices, tuition fees may have to be looked at as in relation to the cost of the equipment being used in various programs.

Sherril Osment, a print journalism student at Doon, said tuition increases, especially for technological programs that use very expensive equipment, may be a good idea.

"We (students who don't take tech courses) shouldn't have to pay for their equipment," Osment said.

She added the government should look at other, more helpful options to give prospective

students a better chance of being able to go to school.

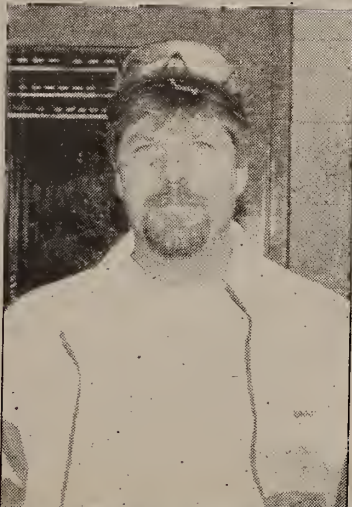
"They should offer more scholarships to people who don't have the money," Osment suggested.

Other students, like Donald Smith and Tom Stendel, both in the general metal machining program at Doon, said the government should be the one taking responsibility for good education.

"Students should get more money from the government for training," Stendel said. "They have all this extra money they seem to have raised since the last budget update so they should use it for us for a change."



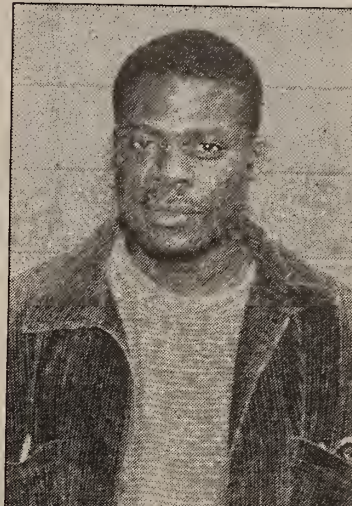
Ana Sajfert-journalism



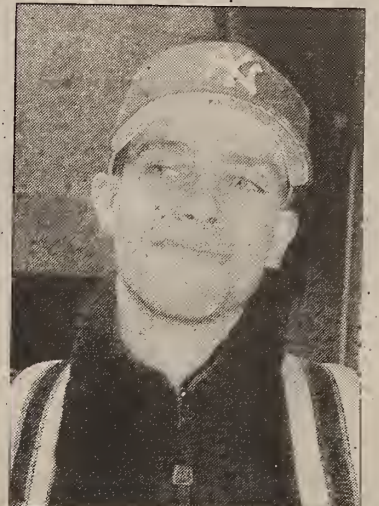
Tom Stendel-metal machining



Sherril Osment-journalism



Donald Smith-metal machining



Andrew Coutier-graphic design

Local News**Outrageous book reader at gallery in Waterloo**

Sky Gilbert, writer, filmmaker and drag queen extraordinaire will be reading selections from his written works at the Canadian Clay and Glass Gallery in Waterloo.

The reading will take place on Sunday, May 24 at 2 p.m. The gallery is located at 25 Caroline St. N., Waterloo.

Gilbert's early years were dedicated mainly to his theatrical works. His hit plays Drag Queens on Trial and Drag Queens in Outer Space were produced in New York City, Chicago, San Francisco, Houston, Phoenix, Vancouver, Toronto, Montreal and Washington, D.C.

Gilbert has had 14 plays published. He also directed Anything Goes and Wilde's Salome in 1987 for the Shaw Festival.

Gilbert's non-theatrical writing has just recently burst into print. His poetry has been published in many anthologies including Eight Technologies of Otherness, and Plush. His first novel Guilty has just been published by Insomniac Press and ECW Press will publish his complete poems this fall.

Following the reading, Out and About-Queer Radio and the Clay and Glass Gallery will jointly sponsor an Ice Cream Social. Audience members will get to meet Gilbert and discuss his work.

**Digest your
copy of Spoke
TODAY!**



The line starts . . . somewhere

Students from all over Ontario were lined up at every door at the Doon campus May 5 as they registered for the Skills Canada competition. (Photo by Casey Johnson)

Fun in the sun can have its risks

Victoria Day long weekend is the time for people to think about skin

By Donna Fierheller

The third week in May traditionally marks the beginning of the summer season, although summer won't officially arrive until June 21.

The May 24th weekend has just ended, having come a week early this year than it sometimes does.

Many people will have the beginnings of a tan, or a sunburn to show, after having pursued outdoor activities such as barbecuing, planting gardens and soaking up the sunshine.

But beware! Skin damage caused from this year's sunburns and tanning will add to the amount of damage accumulated over previous years, and can lead to skin cancer, according to skin experts.

According to a spokesperson for the Canadian Cancer Society, more people are becoming aware of the dangers.

The cancer society gets a lot of

Many others still think getting a "healthy" tan is okay.

The society spokesperson said in reality, a tan is the skin's way of trying to protect itself from addi-

Statistics are not kept on the number of people who develop non-melanoma.

On the other hand, melanoma is monitored, as the type that is more deadly.

It grows down through the skin layers and can affect all organs, or migrate to the brain and liver, the spokesperson said. Excising (cutting it out), is the treatment given for melanoma.

Skin cancers appear most often on the face, neck, hands and arms of victims, due to a higher exposure rate of these areas to the sun over their lifetimes.

But there are ways to minimize the risks while still enjoying the summer weather, according to skin experts.

Adults, as well as children, should wear a wide-brimmed hat in the sun, and apply a sun-screen frequently while outside, to protect from the UVA and UVB rays that cause cancer.

"It can take from 10 to 20 years for one of two types of cancer to appear."

Canadian Cancer Society spokesperson

calls from mothers, inquiring about ways to protect their children from too much sun.

She said most damage occurs before the age of 10 years.

"I can remember at 12 to 14 years of age, baking myself in the sun, with baby oil on my skin. That's exactly what I was doing - baking myself," she said.

tional damage by ultraviolet rays from the sun.

"It can take from 10 to 20 years for one of two types of cancer to appear," she said. "As cancers go, non-melanoma is not as serious, usually."

Cancer that grows across the skin can be successfully treated.

Few people die if treatment is given in time, usually by a dermatologist, but if it is ignored, it can invade and kill other parts of the body, she said.

Sun-smart protection

Fair-weather tips for safe sunning

By Donna Fierheller

Ultraviolet rays, whether natural (from the sun), or artificial (from tanning tables and sunlamps), are the main causes of skin cancer.

However, people don't have to put a stop to enjoyable outside activities and hide from the sun to be safe.

A fact sheet from the Ontario division of the Canadian Cancer Society says Ultraviolet B (UVB) rays penetrate the outer layer of the skin, causing sunburn and cancer. Ultraviolet A (UVA) rays penetrate deeper tissue, causing prematurely-aged skin and a suppressed immune system and can lead to cancer.

By learning and applying simple precautions as outlined in the fact sheet, future problems may be averted, and the incidence of skin cancers reduced.

Skin can be protected by wearing a hat or light clothing, or by using a sunscreen or sunblock to create a barrier against both UVA and UVB rays.

The product's ability to perform as a barrier is called the sun protection factor, or S.P.F., and is calculated in a laboratory. It is a guide to how much protection is provided, and how long you can stay in the sun before burning. Sunscreens can range from 2 to 50; the higher the number, the more protection is afforded, according to the fact sheet.

The Canadian Dermatology Association recommends an S.P.F. of 15 or higher be used.

To determine the S.P.F. needed, follow this formula: If it normally takes 10 minutes for the skin to redden without protection, an S.P.F. of 15 will provide 150 minutes of protection (10 min. X S.P.F. 15 = 150 min. of protection).

The fact sheet stresses that fair-haired and fair-skinned people should use a higher S.P.F., as they are the most prone to burning.

When purchasing a sunscreen, make sure it protects against both UVA and UVB rays. Reapply sunscreen as recommended by the product manufacturer.

Off campus

Joseph comes to the Square

By Michael Hilborn

When Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat makes its Kitchener debut in June, it will have a decidedly local flavor.

The popular children's musical, which was written by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice, traditionally incorporates local youngsters in the cast and this production is no exception. This time, the Grade 5-6 class from St. Timothy's school in Kitchener has been selected to share the stage with David Osmond and the Osmond 2nd Generation when the production opens at the Centre in the Square on June 3. The children will perform in eight shows between June 3 and June 7.

According to a recent press release, Centre in the Square general manager, Jamie Grant said the concept brings back fond memories from his own childhood when he had an opportunity to perform in the classic musical West Side Story.

The story of Joseph is a charming biblical tale about a spoiled young man, his jealous brothers and his often misguided journey into adulthood. This classic morality play is considered ideal entertainment for the entire family.

Tickets for Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat are now on sale at the Centre In The Square box office. Ticket prices are \$40-\$60. Performance times are 7:30 p.m. with matinees June 6-7 at 2 p.m.

Tickets can be ordered by telephone by calling the box office at 519-578-1570 or toll free at 1-800-265-8977. For further information, contact Marlene Batchelor, Director of Marketing, at 519-578-5660 ext. 212.

CORRECTION



Chris McGregor (second from left) and Earlton Bramble receive a \$400 Sommers Award. Kay Sommers (left) and her mother-in-law, Joyce Sommers (right) were inadvertently misidentified in last week's paper. SPOKE regrets the error.

Wedding bells

Conestoga College nursing students say 'I do'

By Jeannette Altwegg

On Saturday, May 9, two Conestoga College students made their dream come true when they made a lifetime commitment to stay by each other's side.

Chris Patry and Tanya Bauman's wedding took place at the Bethel Mennonite church in Elora.

Both being students of the nursing program at Conestoga's

Doon campus, Tanya said they had a hard time of balancing their studies with their time for each other.

"It's really hard trying to make wedding plans while you're studying for final exams," Tanya said.

School, according to the couple, was one of the reasons for having a lengthy engagement.

"It was important to keep that (education) in mind when we were

thinking of a date to have the wedding on," Tanya said. "We both decided that we wanted to finish school before we started making plans."

"We met in the library working on a school project," Chris said about his first meeting with his wife. "For me it was love at first sight. I told myself, I've got to know who that girl is."

Both of them remember constantly asking schoolmates and mutual friends in the nursing program about each other, until Chris finally got enough nerve to ask Tanya out on a date.

"Our first date didn't go over so well," Chris remembers. "I was moving way too fast and I was scaring her off. I was scared she wouldn't go out with me again after that."

Tanya even remembers swearing off guys forever after her first date with Chris.

"I'm never going out with another guy again in my life," she remembers declaring to her father after Chris had tried to kiss her on their first date.

However, because of her father's conviction that not all guys were bad, and a very insistent phone-calling Chris, Tanya ended up giving him another chance.

The couple got engaged in December 1996 after Tanya returned from a two-week vacation with her family in Florida.

"I decided that I couldn't live without her near all the time," a very emotional Chris said. "So, I asked her to marry me."

Tanya said she remembers her family's surprise when she told them. "They almost freaked out," she said. "It came as a complete surprise to them even though Chris told his family about it before he



Mr. and Mrs. Patry ascend the steps of Lover's Leap at the Elora Gorge, where they had their wedding pictures taken.

(Photo by Jeannette Altwegg)



Tanya and Chris Patry share a kiss as they take a carriage ride through the historical town of Elora. They were married at the Bethel Mennonite Church in Elora May 9.

(Photo by Jeannette Altwegg)

even asked me."

Tanya and Chris plan to

"I'm never going out with another guy again..."

Tanya Patry, after her first date with her future husband.

honeymoon in Florida. "I love the beach," Tanya confessed, adding that they are thinking about

working in Florida after their graduation in December.

Tanya said their parents don't wish to see the couple move so far away. "I'm my dad's only daughter and he told me it took him some time to get adjusted to the idea that I've become a woman now. It'd be that much harder if we moved away though."

For now, the couple will be starting their home in Waterloo and finish their work terms in the fall.

DSA to represent Conestoga at SuperCon

By Lisa Roberts

Representatives of the Doon Student Association (DSA) will attend SuperCon, the National Student Leaders' Orientation Conference, which will be held in Vancouver, B.C. during the last weekend of May.

DSA president Kristin Murphy will be representing Conestoga College at SuperCon, along with Gerry Cleaves, vice-president of student affairs, and Jenn Hussey, vice-president of operations.

The University of British Columbia Students' Society will host the national student conference, which takes place in the Alma Mater Society Student Union building on campus.

According to a press release, SuperCon is the nickname given to the national convention, and is in its fourth year since replacing the Power of Partnership Symposium.

Hussey, who recently returned from the Ontario Transitional Conference (OTC), said she was looking forward to the national conference.

"Take the OTC, put it on steroids, and you've got

SuperCon," explained Hussey. "The topics are more relevant to college students than university students. SuperCon will also give us the opportunity to enhance relationships we made with people from the OTC."

"Take the OTC (Ontario Transitional Conference), put it on steroids, and you've got SuperCon."

Jenn Hussey, vice president of operations for the DSA

SuperCon unites approximately 100 student association presidents, vice-presidents and other executives from most colleges and universities across Canada.

Its purpose is to familiarize participants with student governance, which provides the fundamental elements of student administration at an executive level.

Goals for SuperCon include acting as a vehicle to prepare and

inform delegates about student governance from an executive perspective, as well as serving as a medium for networking and building relationships from all parts of Canada.

Hussey compared the recent Ontario Transitional Conference to the upcoming SuperCon. During the OTC, she said, she enjoyed meeting students from across the province and attending board of director meetings.

"It (the OTC) was a great conference. There was one seminar held on how to deal with the media, but we've never had a problem with it because we (DSA and Spoke) get along fine. It will be the same, but on a larger scale, at SuperCon."

With Hussey, Murphy and Cleaves attending the symposium, this means there will be more topics to cover. "There are three different options," said Hussey. "This way, we can touch upon all options offered at SuperCon."

The DSA representatives will be leaving May 28 at 5:30 a.m. to catch their flight to Vancouver. They will be staying in residence at the University of British Columbia for six nights, and return on June 5.

Professional development forum for Doon LASA faculty cancelled

The community development seminar, which was to be held at the Doon campus May 12 to 14, was cancelled.

Information regarding the seminar appeared in a story that ran in the May 11 issue of Spoke. The article was titled, 14 police officers to attend seminar at Doon.

The seminar, a professional development training forum for law and security administration faculty, was to have been the first of its kind in Ontario.

Along with LASA faculty, 14 area police officers were to have attended the community development session.

Susan Hartley, LASA teacher and a seminar co-ordinator, said the Ministry of the Solicitor General and Corrections Services cancelled the event. Ministry representatives would not elaborate on the reason for the cancellation, Hartley said.

There are no plans to reschedule the event as of yet.

Got something to say?

Write us! Send your letters to:
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Or, e-mail us at:
spoke@conestogac.on.ca

Mrs. Robinsons hosts Acme CD release party

By Lisa Roberts

The studios in which Guelph-based band ACME rehearse are what one would expect of a musician's lair. There's the usual assortment of empty beer bottles and soda cans, a battered couch or two are positioned in front of the band's equipment, and there are several rock group banners including one of Twisted Sister's outrageous singer Dee Snider strategically placed behind a pipe. "This is where Dee Snider eats the pipe," deadpans ACME vocalist Matt Grainger.

This is but a small example of the off-the-wall humor the band exhibits during their informal rehearsals to warm up for their upcoming CD release party at Mrs. Robinson's on Weber Street in Kitchener. The show takes place Thursday, May 21 with admission costing \$5. The doors are scheduled to open at 8 p.m.

Special guests for the show are Kitchener band Derivation and dumb as sheep, also from Guelph. "The new record is finally coming out, and it kicks ass," Grainger enthused. "We'll be playing some new songs at the show. It's the event to be at this year."

Earlier this year, ACME celebrated the release of their second CD, called *Jet Engine*, at Van Gogh's Ear in Guelph. For their gig at Mrs. Robinson's, the band promises, there will be newer material to be heard.

"We want to get the record in stores with a lot of hype," said Grainger. "We're hoping for a large turnout at the gig."

One of the main reasons the band is playing in Kitchener is to maintain the popularity they

achieved when they used to do numerous gigs at the now-defunct club, the Volcano. They haven't played in over a year and a half in Kitchener, except for the release of the Echo magazine compilation CD in April.

"I liked the Volcano a lot," reminisced Grainger. "It was the coolest place in the world to play. We opened for almost everyone that came through there."

Some of the newer songs that will be heard at their release party have taken a more mellow approach.

One song the band made their way through at the rehearsal studio included vocals by guitarist Brad Dawson.

It sounded very poignant and melodic, speaking of undying hope and love despite numerous difficulties within a relationship.

"We're at a mellow writing stage right now," confessed Grainger. "We're trying to get Brad to do more singing because we're trying to get the vocals to sound more diverse. We want to do more vocal trade-offs between us."

Two new songs that will be played at the gig at Mrs. Robinson's will be Big Hotshot and Bugly Torso.

Big Hotshot includes basic chord aggression and an interesting vocal tradeoff between Grainger, Dawson, and bassist Nate Martin. Bugly Torso is a bass-laden slab of funk that arguably reminds one of the Red Hot Chili Peppers, circa *Uplift Mofo Party Plan*.

"Some of these songs aren't more than a week old, so they're the next album's projects," said Grainger.

Grainger claims that *Jet Engine* is more of a progression for the



Acme vocalist, Matt Grainger, left, with guitarist, Brad Dawson perform at Van Gogh's Ear on Feb. 21 in Guelph, where they held their first CD release party. (Photo by Lisa Roberts)

band. They enlisted the help of Brad Nelson, who assisted with the recording of the latest Headstones' CD, *Smile and Wave*. Nelson also worked with fellow Guelphites The Kramdens on their CD, *semi-stylish*.

"*Fighting Amongst Ourselves* (ACME's first album) was a bad memory for us," remembered Grainger. "It took a year to record because of who we were recording with. There was a lot of mixing and remixing, and we were getting told that everything had to be perfect. By the time the record was

finished and out, *Jet Engine* was written.

"We wrote and recorded Supermagician in March of '96, two months after the first album was released," continued Grainger. "We originally wanted to use the tapes as demos for the record companies but we were soon overwhelmed with a pile of tapes."

Hence, the reason for the release of *Jet Engine* as a complete album, and not just a collection of demos.

In regards to the Guelph "scene," it seems to be resurfacing again,

but Grainger said he already spotted problems with it.

"The band scene is really resurfacing in Guelph, but the people in charge of it are total ego-maniacs," he said.

"They ignore anything good that comes out of it. There are so many good bands but so many egos. The Trasheteria (in Guelph) has started doing live gigs again, but they won't let Guelph bands play there. That's why the Volcano was a perfect place to play; they didn't care what city you were from, as long as you could play."

Harassment

Quick response leads to low complaint rate, says official

By Melanie Spencer

Conestoga's Doon campus has fewer harassment complaint inquiries, according to human resources manager Debra Croft.

With the start of a new semester at Conestoga College and an influx of new students, it's important for students and staff to know their rights regarding harassment.

In accordance with the Protection of Human Rights policy and procedure guidelines adopted by the college in 1995, harassment will not be tolerated whether occurring on college premises or while engaging in college activities off campus.

The college defines harassment in terms of both physical and verbal conduct, usually with objectionable or offensive emphasis on the sex, sexual

orientation, race, religion or disability of an individual or group.

Croft said there is an average of one to two inquiries a month.

Formal complaints have decreased over the years because of increased education and awareness, she said.

If an individual feels he or she is being harassed, the pamphlet, entitled *Harassment and Your Rights*, outlines some steps students can take, including telling the person as clearly, firmly and directly as you can that his or her behavior is offensive and that it should stop immediately.

After having pursued all other viable options and the situation is still not resolved, it is time to seek help.

Students can contact Croft at 748-5220, extension 341, a counsellor in Student Services or Health Services at 748-5220, extension 254.

At that point, Croft will review the complaint to see if it fits the criteria of harassment or if it should be directed to another area for resolution.

She will assist in bringing the two parties together in an effort to reach a mutual understanding. Most complaints are resolved at this stage.

If the situation is still not resolved, a formal complaint is then launched.

The final stage of the investigation, outlined in the college's policy, involves a panel of three individuals appointed to adjudicate a hearing.

The panel submits its report to John Tibbits, the college president, who then makes a final decision regarding the resolution of the complaint.

Every effort will be made to ensure that both parties are able to finish their education at the college, Croft said.

Women's group reschedules

By Melanie Spencer

Conestoga College's Women's Resource Group has rescheduled its planning meeting to May 19.

Students, faculty and staff are welcome to attend the main

planning meeting which will provide an opportunity to discuss events for the next academic year.

The group will meet in the blue room of the main cafeteria on Tuesday, May 19 from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

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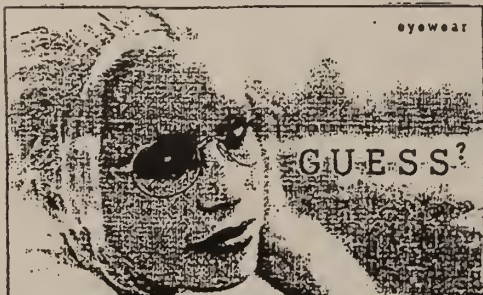
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